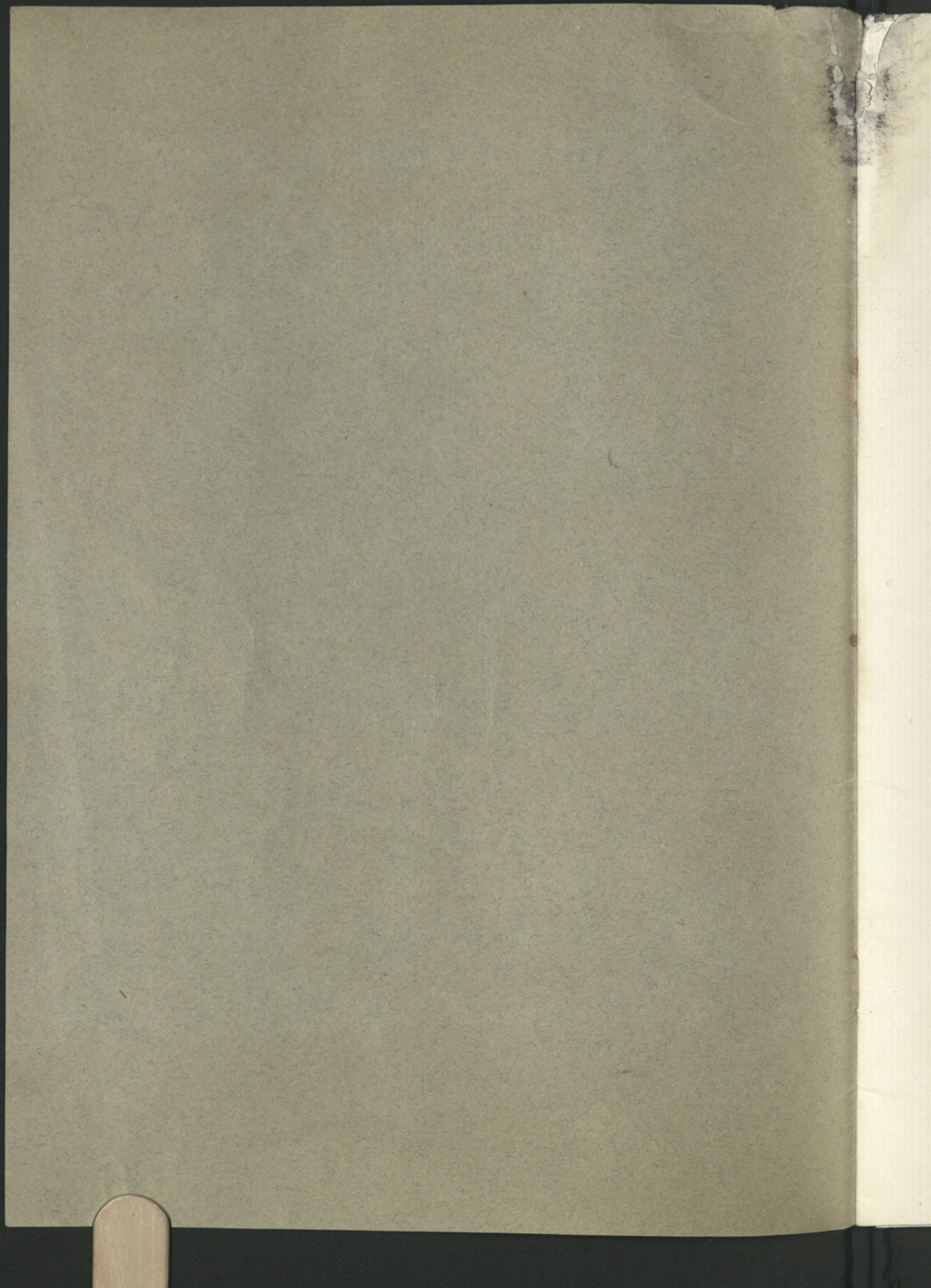

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The
Old Canteen

An oval frame containing the text 'The Old Canteen'.

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New York City



The Old Canteen

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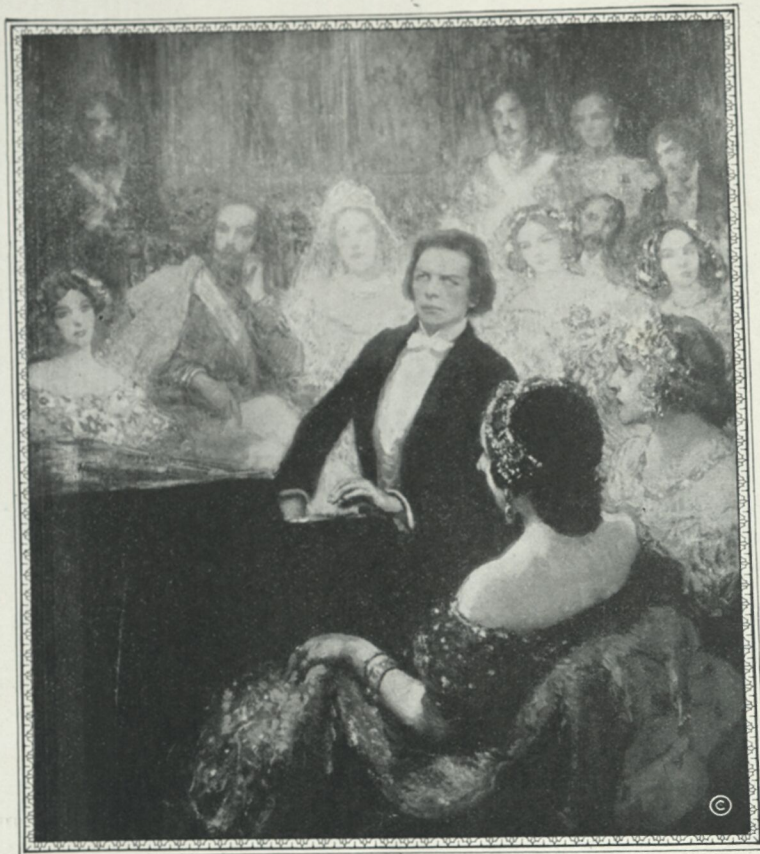
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Rubinstein plays for the Czar. Painted by F. Louts Mora

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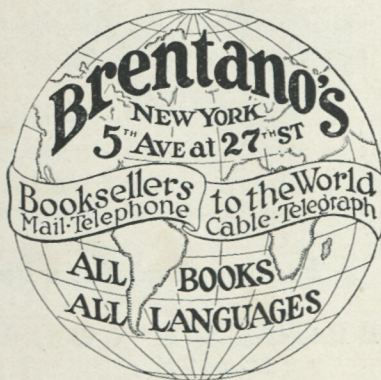
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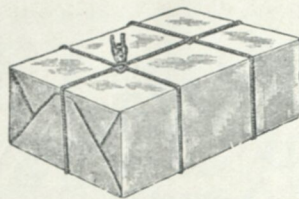
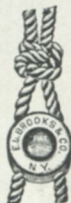
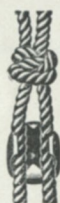
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THE STORY OF

The Old Canteen

By

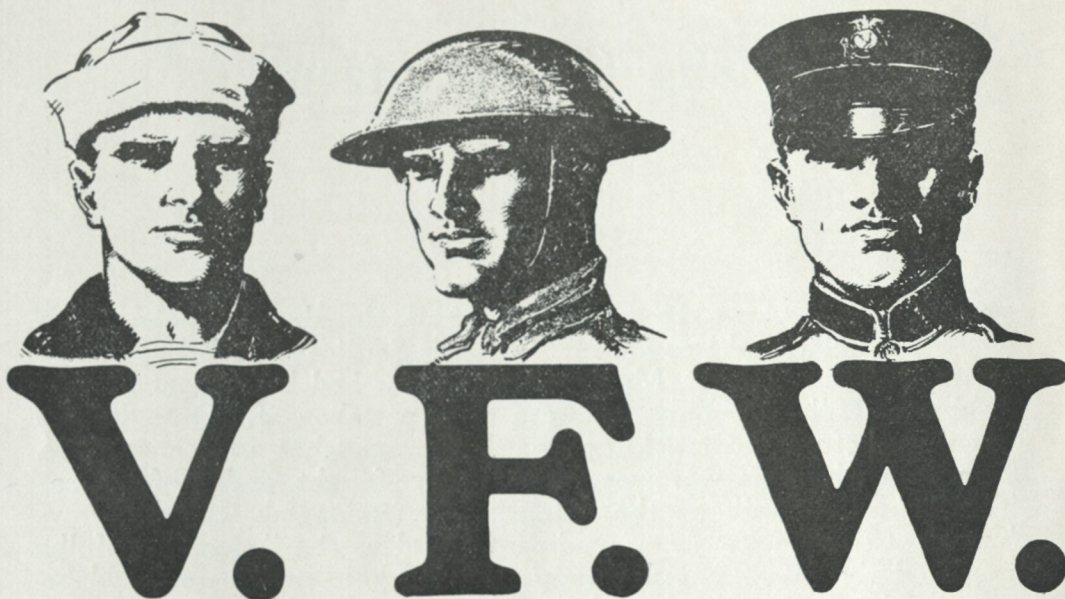
HARRY J. WALSH

WHEN the Army Hospital at Fox Hills closed, the canteen which the National League for Women's Service ran nearby was, of necessity, also closed. Many a happy hour had been spent in that "old canteen" - - - many a merry meal partaken of. On a winter evening, before the crackling hearth fire, crutches and canes were forgotten while the war was fought and re-fought, orally, of course. The "old tin pan", as the piano was affectionately called, strove bravely to make its accompaniment heard as the "gang" manfully rendered the latest popular song. Seated here and there could be seen the inveterate checker players, lips pursed and brows contracted at some especially difficult move. From the bowling alley in the next room the hum of the bowling balls came, punctuated by the crash of pins as someone made a "ten strike".

At dinner time there was a good natured rush for the dining room and then the meal, with its joshing, rattling of plates and hearty good fellowship. That "old canteen" was an oasis - - - a place where a fellow could go and mingle with his comrades and be at his ease. The women who made such a place possible performed a work as noble and praiseworthy as any hero who has ever lived.

Then came the time when wounds were healed and uniforms discarded for the long craved civilian clothes. As the boys re-entered everyday life they looked back longingly on the happy days of the "old canteen". New problems confronted them now. If they could have some place to go where they could discuss these problems together and cooperate in solving them and in helping one another!

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



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The Veterans of Foreign Wars

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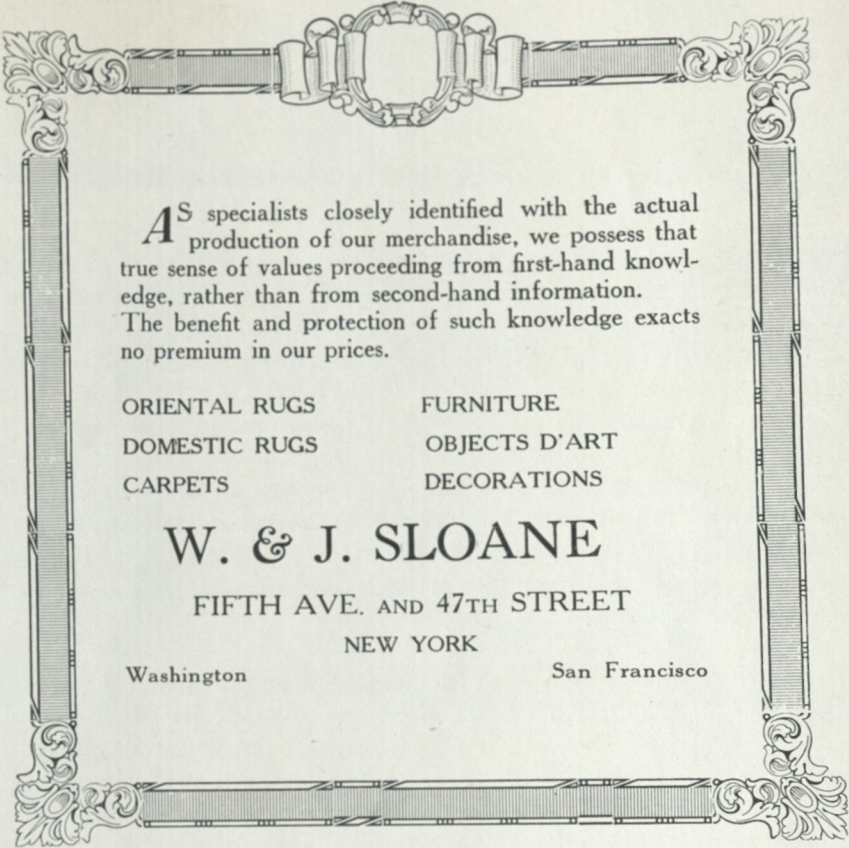
Edward
McCandlish

Last June, several of the "gang" were spending a week-end at the historic old Knox Farm near Morristown, New Jersey, as the guests of Miss Marion Knox and Miss Elinor Brooks. Seeing the possibilities for service that lay in a clubhouse for disabled veterans, Miss Brooks set about seeing what could be done. She organized the committee of women whose names appear elsewhere in this book and they went at the job with their well known feminine zest and ability. As an illustration of their courage, it can be pointed out that they leased the building 151 East 21st Street when they had but \$500 in the treasury. They appealed to people whom they knew would be interested and gradually collected enough funds to put the club solidly on its feet.

In casting about for a name it was but natural that it should be called "THE OLD CANTEEN" in memory of its predecessor. It opened on October 9th with a real old time get-together party. On October 10th the forty-five charter members held their first meeting. They called themselves The Old Canteen Club and showed a spirit and enthusiasm that is hard to equal. The officers and honorary members elected at that meeting are given elsewhere in this book.

The clubhouse contains a restaurant, reading room, music room, gymnasium and pool room. During the first three weeks of its existence the restaurant served 1,000 meals to disabled veterans in training in this locality. The Canteen has been a success from the start and now has 115 members. It is primarily a social club for disabled veterans, which hopes, by cooperation, to aid its members in every possible way. The Canteen is fast becoming self-supporting.

All the people who have helped make The Old Canteen possible are assured of the heartfelt thanks of its members. It sure does recall the days of our first "old canteen" to be greeted by Miss Brooks, its former hostess, as we come in the door. In the restaurant, Miss Knox, our ex-mess sergeant, holds forth as Canteen Manager and makes sure we have enough to eat. And we can't get too much, for the culinary details are in the capable hands of Ida whose creations of southern delicacies have been enjoyed by countless wounded veterans.



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A LETTER FROM TWO LITTLE GIRLS

Many people have donated different sums of money towards the support of THE OLD CANTEEN. The men of the club feel deeply appreciative of all those who have helped them organize their club, but a special place in their hearts has been won by the two little ten year old girls who sent the letter printed below. It is addressed to "Auntie El", who is better known to you as Miss Elinor Brooks, Chairman of the Executive Committee. We print it in full:

MARGARET HALSEY SMITH

150 MONTROSE AVENUE

SOUTH ORANGE, N. J.

Dear Auntie El.

Anne Bradley and I have been planning a long time to have a fair and at last had it on our own lawn last week. Our friends were very good and helped us and we raised \$40.00. We have had many plans about giving the money away and finally decided that we would rather give it to your Canteen and hope that you can use it for your soldiers. Auntie Helen Halsey said, that you were trying to raise money so we want you to have what we raised at our Fair by selling the things we made and Candy, Lemonade, Cakes, besides a grab bag and raffling off Dolls and other things.

I am sorry we cannot see you to give you the money. We send lots of love and hope you can use it.

(Signed)

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— CAST OF CHARACTERS —

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RASTUS (her husband)	Mr. David Guiry
PLATO (her "fiancee")	Mr. Harry J. Walsh
OBEDIAH (her nephew)	Mr. James O'Neil
FAN (her neighbor)	Mr. Harold Cooper
SHRIMP (Plato's side partner)	Mr. Joseph Hayes
SALOME (Obediah's wife)	Mr. Clarence Mather
SISTER LILY MAY WHITE	Mr. Daniel F. Morgan
FEARLESS (her husband)	Mr. Dominick Alnio

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

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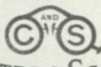
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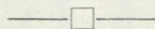
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LINDY LU	<i>Mr. Michael Barry</i>
MANDY	<i>Mr. Frank MacAuliffe</i>
LULU	<i>Mr. Vincent Callaghan</i>
LILY	<i>Mr. Tom Ceileci</i>
BESSIE	<i>Mr. Herman Tatum</i>
"BANJO"	<i>Mr. John Scully</i>
"FIDDLER"	<i>Mr. Gilbert Moreaux</i>



S C E N E S

ACT 1. Inside Zilly Anne's Cabin.

ACT 2. Inside Sister Lily May White's Barn.

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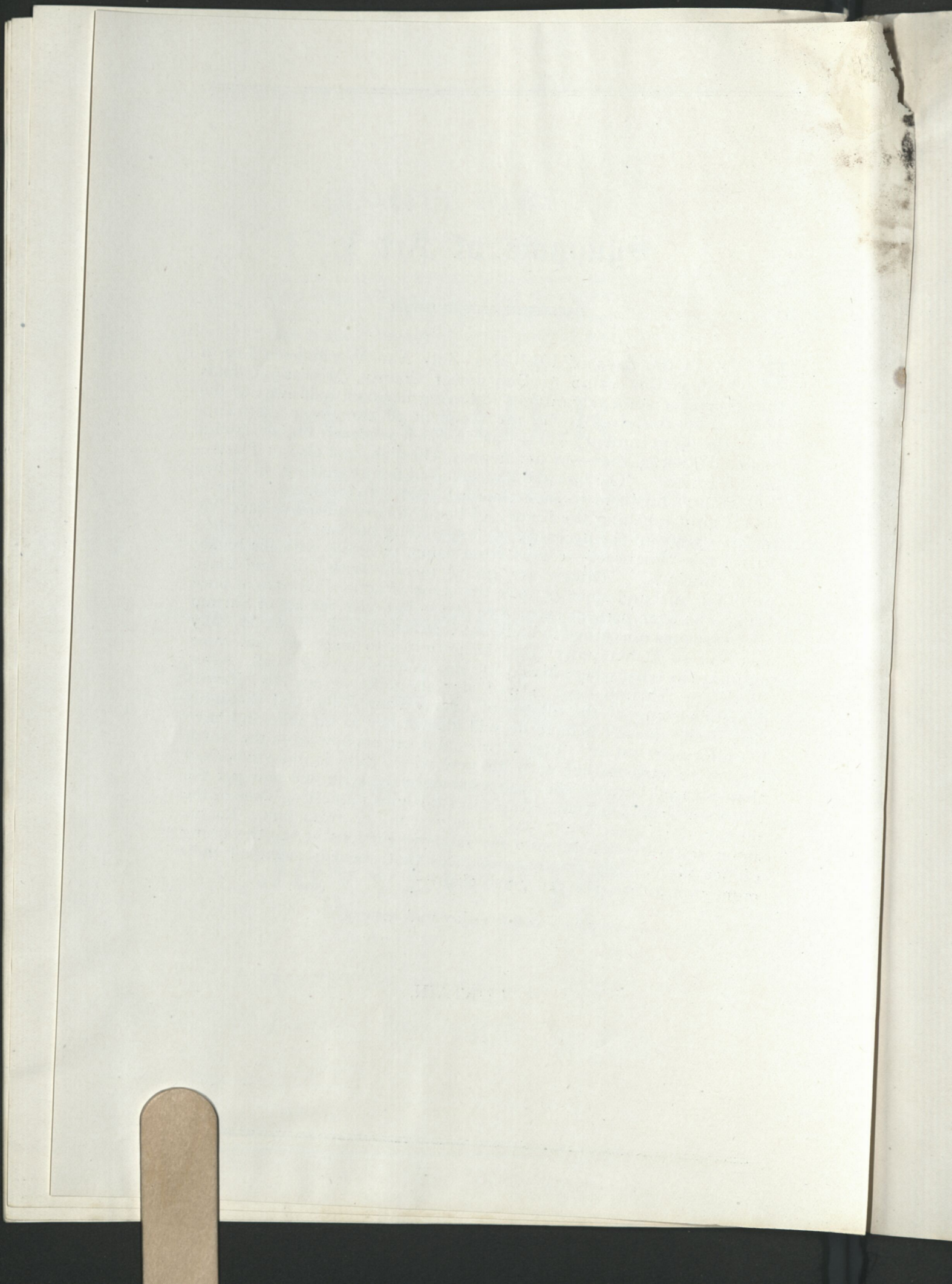
24-26 FIFTY-SEVENTH STREET WEST

Synopsis of Act 1.

BACK in the days of 1917 Mrs. Zilly Ann Washington Lee, a high-yellow vamp of Sun-flower County, Mississippi, finds that there are some advantages in having her men folk away at the War. She contrives to be the recipient of three war-allotments from the government;—first—as an “independent” of her lawful husband Rastus, then—of her nephew Obediah, and also of Plato—her “financee”. The last she has acquired before getting rid of her “no-count” husband to save time after the “divorcement.” She is thoroughly relishing the luxury of being able to **afford** to have “de misery” without the necessity of “expatiating her sins in work when Plato, her “financee”—comes from camp, on leave with his buddy “The Shrimp.” Things are going merrily with Zilly and Plato until her husband appears upon the scene of action. Rastus at once brings the ever-present razor into play,—but with the aid of Shrimp Plato escapes unscathed in body but terrified in soul. However, Zilly has him so in her power that he promises to meet her that same night at the barn where Mrs. Lily May White is giving a ball. After Plato and Shrimp have retired, not altogether gracefully, Rastus demands some of the allotment money from Zilly, and threatens that if she doesn’t behave he will disown her as his wife and have her allotment cut off. Just at this point her nephew from the North arrives to surprise her with his new wife. Zilly is more surprised than pleased because she realizes at once the wife will now get the allotment from Obediah. Also Obediah begins requesting some of the money the Government has already sent her from him. Rastus again reiterates his demand for money. Furious at the thwarting of her plans, Zilly finally announces that she has spent all their money on a nice new red plush chair—

“so’s I could enjoy ma’ misery” !

CURTAIN.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT 1

Dance *Shrimp*
Entre-Acte *Mr. Walsh and Mr. Hayes*
Songs *Mr. John Brawley*

ACT 2

"The Sandman" *Quartette, Messrs. Brawley, Walsh, Carroll & Clancy*
"O Susanna" *"Banjo"*
"Lindy-Lu" *Ben*
"Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" *Sam*
"Highbrown Blues" *Cornelius and Chorus*
Dance *Mose and Buck*
"Put'n' Take Blues" *Plato and Chorus*
"The Robert E. Lee" *Chorus*

MUSIC BY LES. RAPLEY'S ORCHESTRA

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NOTE—Every member of the cast and orchestra of this play is a
Disabled Veteran of the World War.

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Assistant Director *MR. ROBERT N. COATES*
Musical Director *MR. KENNETH CLARK*
Assistant Musical Directors *MR. MATHEW CARROLL and MR. WM. CLANCY*
Stage Manager *MR. HERMAN TATUM*
Assistant Stage Managers... *MR. VINCENT CALLAGHAN and MR. THEO. ROMANOFF*
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